

Buncombe County Board of Elections
Asheville/Buncombe County Board of Elections

Monitor Name: Elaine and George Elam

Date & Time: May 24, 2024 5:30 PM

Names of Board Members Attending:

Jake Quinn, Chairman

Mary Ann Braine, Board Member

Steven Aceto, Board Member (arrived late)

Glen Shults, Secretary

Sally Stein: Board Member

Names of Buncombe Co Staff Attending: Corrine Duncan, Director; Devin Whitney, Elections Technical Specialist; Justin Tate, Absentee Coordinator; Anna Katherine Moore, Administrative Coordinator and Clerk to the Board; Bria Bailey, Elections Technical Specialist

Location of Meeting: 59 Woodfin Place, Asheville NC

Observers:

Undetermined number of observers including: 1 Republicans, 1 reporter, and 3 LWVAB. 4 online.

Agenda Items

I. Agenda for this meeting approved by acclamation

II. Office Updates – Corrine Duncan, Director

- They are doing a “Stand Down” event for veterans Wednesday. They’ve been doing this for some time.
- This meeting is Canvass, the purpose of which is to certify the results of election. This is a Board duty only. All the results and audits that have been done throughout the election will be brought to the Board. Then they will sign the abstract cover sheet that certifies the election.
- First, they will open up a possible challenge. Devin will present any manual edits that may come from that. Then we’ll present the provisional audit, the absentee audit, the early voting audit, and the Election Day audit, and the Board will be able to review all the material.
- Reminder that the State Board sent a memo regarding a privacy issue due to the limited number of voters. Only the Election Day summary will be public.
- Ms. Braine asked about this. Corrine stated that the votes divided up between the voting methods and eighty precincts, could identify an individual voter’s choice.
- When the Board is satisfied with the material, they will move to certify. Devin and Briawill print the cover letter that goes with the abstract. Then Corrine will notarize the abstract.

III. Administrative Challenges (G.S. § 163-89) – Devin Whitney

- Devin presented the challenge.
- A voter who voted absentee passed away before Election Day. A letter was sent to the address with no response back.
- Mr. Quinn asked if there was anyone in attendance today to would challenge this challenge? There was not.
- So the manual edit could not be done. (Catawba County had the same issue.) This is because the new updated election software could not accept the numbers.
- Ms. Stein asked if feedback was given to fix the glitch. Corrine said yes. The board then discussed the problem and how the numbers were balanced.
- Mr. Quinn asked for a motion to accept the challenge. Ms. Braine made motion, which passed 5-0.
- Corrine said even though the report was scanned, a manual is required.
- Mr. Quinn said he was glad this issue came out during a small election.

IV. Presentation of Audit (G.S. § 163-182.5) – Justin Tate

Mr. Tate presented the Board with 9 provisional ballots.

- One of those was recommended for disapproval from staff. This one voter registered after the deadline.
- He presented the tally tape to accompany. They matched. Ms. Duncan said the process typically involves duplication teams because voters will have different ballot styles. Because in the second primary everyone had the same ballot, duplication was not needed.
- Justin moved on to absentee ballots. He presented a Final report with corrections, accounting for the previous challenge. The count was removed from 4-16-24 meeting.
- There were a total of 137 absentee ballots, none of which went uncured.
- Devin stated that 262 ballots went through the DS-200 and we had 262 applications. No discrepancies.

V. Presentation of Reports & Certification of Election (G.S. § 163-182, G.S. § 163-182.5) – Bria Bailey

- 1,857 ballots were cast and there were 1,857 authorization to vote forms.
- Although the numbers add up, Bria explained that two laptops from precinct 33.2 were misprogrammed, causing two voters to vote provisional. The Chief Judge found the error.
- Ms. Stein suggested that training for judges to look for proper setups on laptops.
- Ms. Braine asked how the laptops were programmed wrong. Bria said it sometimes happens when the laptops are designated .2 or .3, and the designation is overlooked. She also said the error went past 4 sets of people before it was caught.

- Ms Stein asked if we had a % of Republicans that voted? Mr. Quinn said it would be difficult to determine due to unaffiliated also voting.
- The Board was invited to review all the material at hand before the certification.
- Jake asked for motion to certify the second primary election. Mr. Aceto made the motion. The motion passed 5-0.
- Bria passed around the final abstract which the Board signed and then Corrine notarized.
- One report stays with BOE, one report goes to the State BOE, and one report goes to the county clerk of courts.
- Mr Black asked about information on ID exceptions being used in the second primary. Corrine said she could provide that.
- Jake stated that candidate filing will continue through June and July for some local races.
- The Board members will attend State wide training the first week in August.

VI. Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 9 at 3:30 PM

Location: 59 Woodfin Place